

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the cancellation of claims 16 to 18, claims 10 to 15 and 19 to 27 are pending in the present application. In view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging priority claims.

The Examiner did not consider the five references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 19, 2007 for the alleged reason that these references are in foreign languages. It is respectfully submitted that only two of the five references are not in English. As to the two foreign language references, the Information Disclosure Statement of July 19, 2007 is resubmitted herein along with the response, including English versions of the abstracts of the two foreign language references. Therefore, consideration of all of references by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 10 to 15 and 19 to 27 are allowed.

III. Rejection of Claims 16 to 18 Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 16 to 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. While Applicants disagree with the rejection on the merits, to facilitate the matter, claims 16 to 18 have been canceled, thereby rendering moot the rejection of claims 16 to 18.

Accordingly, all pending claims 10 to 15 and 19 to 27 are allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of pending claims 10 to 15 and 19 to 27 are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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